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Ford in Dallas calls for end to fear talk

United Press International

DALLAS — Un[illegible] ted by two [illegible] ssination [illegible] in [illegible] week, President [illegible] denounced the "[illegible] imists" [illegible] see America crumbling under economic woe, fear of crime and [illegible].

"I didn't take the sacred oath of office to preside over the decline [illegible] fall of the United States of [illegible]," Ford told an applaud[illegible] of about 3,000 Repu[illegible] men in Dallas.

"I [illegible] emphatically reject these scenarios of pessimism."

Arriving from Kansas City, Ford also said he considers the investigation of John F. Kennedy's 1963 murder in Dallas a closed book, with no significant new evidence to be considered.

The President, who did not appear to be wearing his new bullet-proof vest, passed [illegible] sparse crowds as he drove [illegible] closed limousine to the GOP women's convention and pass[illegible] within a quarter mile of the [illegible] where Kennedy was shot.

Security was tight, and Fo[illegible] motorcade route was kept [illegible].

Secret Service [illegible] agents said nine federal, city and state police units—including the Texas Rangers—helped guard the President. Secret Service cars often pulled up alongside Ford's limousine, forming a protective wedge against potential [illegible]

[illegible] the convention [illegible] [illegible]ssed a sharp attack [illegible] nay-sayers.

"Frankly," he said, "I've [illegible] it with the nega[illegible] would write a [illegible] doom for America."

"I've heard much [illegible] from people who say every[illegible] falling apart, how the quality of [illegible] America [illegible] downhill, [illegible] dollar was [illegible] and [illegible] derers have [illegible] behind locked doors."

[illegible] of [illegible] America[illegible]

On [illegible] of [illegible] murderer [illegible] pointed a loaded [illegible] from close range in Sacramento, and in St. Louis Friday [illegible] a [illegible] a doorway of the hall where [illegible] was to speak. The [illegible] ran from [illegible] and escaped.

The incidents didn't deter the [illegible] ging into [illegible] shire Thursday [illegible] and Missouri [illegible] hand-shaking [illegible]. Reporters saw him wearing a bullet-proof vest in

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New Hampshire.

At Dallas' Love Field reporters questioned Ford about the investigation of Kennedy's assassination, including whether it should be reopened because of recurring allegations of a conspiracy.

"I think the right decision was made and I think it would be unwise to reopen the Warren Commission investigation of the assassination [illegible]." Ford was a member of the commission.

[illegible] "not one bit of significant evidence has evolved" by [illegible] Lee [illegible] lone assassin. [illegible] new evidence that would justify reopening" the investigation.

In Dallas, Ford said he was "unconcerned" about security considerations. Asked whether this visit evoked memories of the Kennedy assassination, he replied: "It never entered my mind."

"It has been a great trip," he said. "The people have been so wonderful."